

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18, 33 to 37, 40, 41, 43, 44, 46 to 48, 51 and 52 remain in this application. Claims 1 to 17 were previously withdrawn for being directed to non-elected Group I drawn to an embossing tool. Claims 21 to 30, 42 and 44 were previously withdrawn for being directed to non-elected Species I drawn to an method of printing the slurry directly onto the surface covering. Claims 1 to 17, 19 to 30, 38, 39, 42, 45, 49 and 50 have been cancelled, without prejudice to submitting in a continuing application.

Claims 18, 33 to 35, 37, 40, 41, and 44 have been amended. Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 31, 38 and 39. Claims 33 to 35, 37, 40, 41, and 44 have been amended to changed the dependency from canceled claim 31 to claim 18.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claim 39. While Applicants disagree with the rejections set forth in the latest Office Action, they have amended claim 18 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 39 as set forth by the Examiner at the bottom of page 8 of the Office Action.

Claims 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 49 and 50 have been canceled.

A continuation application will be filed to present the invention of non-elected Species I.

Applicants submit that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, early consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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